



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

July 23, 2021

Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, PhD.
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
Office.Sec@la.gov

Dear Dr. Brown:

On March 31, 2020, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued a Management Alert (<https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/report-management-alert-prompt-action-needed-inform-residents-living-near>) that identified an urgent need to educate and inform residents near ethylene-oxide (EtO) emitting facilities about the health hazards of ethylene oxide (EtO) after the 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment was released. As EPA pursues its mission to protect human health and the environment, addressing risk related to EtO is a priority for the Agency. EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan has directed several EPA Regions to update information on emissions and risk in areas identified in the 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment. EPA Administrator Regan has made it clear that EPA will lean forward and conduct community outreach to ensure all communities are informed, especially those that are underserved.

EPA has completed facility-specific technical assessments on five chemical facilities located in Louisiana, listed in the OIG Management Alert. We are appreciative of the cooperation and information received from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, which was critical to completing the technical assessments. This letter is to notify you that we will be releasing the technical assessments next week and announcing a series of virtual community meetings to provide residents and public officials with information about EtO and its health effects, including community-specific risk information.

Enclosed please find an advance copy of the technical assessment reports for the below-listed following chemical facilities in Louisiana. This information will be available and shared at the community meetings and will be made available on the EPA website next week.

Evonik Corporation (formerly Air Products Performance Mfg. Inc. – Reserve Plant)
474 West 19th Street
Reserve, Louisiana 70084

Union Carbide Corporation - St. Charles Operations
355 LA Highway 3142
Hahnville, Louisiana 70057

Sasol Chemicals USA- Lake Charles Chemical Complex
2201 Old Spanish Trail
Westlake, Louisiana 70669

BCP Ingredients, Inc.
3830 East Highway 30
St Gabriel, Louisiana 70776

Taminco US LLC
3790 East Highway 30
St Gabriel, Louisiana 70776

We will continue to work through the many technical and regulatory challenges with the companies and you to further reduce and control emissions of ethylene oxide from these facilities.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to further communication between our respective staff. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100 or Frances Verhalen at (214) 665-2172.

Sincerely,

David W. Gray
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure 1: Technical Assessment Report BCP Ingredients
Enclosure 2: Technical Assessment Report Evonik
Enclosure 3: Technical Assessment Report Sasol Chemicals
Enclosure 4: Technical Assessment Report Taminco
Enclosure 5: Technical Assessment Report Union Carbide